

Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Coming Events

- Jun 22 **Berkeley Nikkei Seniors Group** at the West Berkeley Senior Center, 1900 Sixth Street, Berkeley. This group meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. For information contact Howard Fukuda (howardfukuda@gmail.com)
- Jul 27 **Berkeley JACL Baseball and Bento** at the A's – see article inside
- Jul 31-Aug 4 **National JACL Convention** in Salt Lake City; see article about proposed resolution and send your input
- Sep 20-22 **COPANI Convention**; Berkeley JACL scholarships available; see article inside

Making Noise is a means to exercise your right to express your views, humor, concerns, or anything else of interest. We will be happy to print it in our Newsletter. Please write to the JACL Berkeley Chapter newsletter, c/o Berkeley JACL, P.O. Box 7609, Berkeley, CA 94707-0609. **MAKE SOME NOISE!!!**

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B E R K E L E Y

Baseball, Bento and Bombs Bursting in Air



By Mark Fujikawa

The 16th Annual Berkeley JACL *Baseball and Bento* event will take place on **Saturday, July 27th** at 6 pm, when the Oakland A's play the Texas Rangers. In addition to plaza level seats, a delicious *bento* dinner, and a bottle of water, there will be a **fireworks show** following the game. **All this for only \$43 per person!!!** Once again, a pre-paid parking voucher may be purchased for an additional \$16 per car (reg. \$30).

We have reserved 75 tickets for this popular event, so get your checks in early. Last chance to get tickets will be Saturday, June 30th. Tickets will be mailed about one week before the game. For information, email berkeleyjacl@gmail.com.

For tickets, send your check made out to the **Berkeley JACL** to: Berkeley JACL, P.O. Box 7609 Berkeley, CA 94707-0609

Berkeley JACL Chapter presents Scholarship, Pioneer, Grants, and Youth Leadership Awards

By Ron Tanaka

The Berkeley JACL chapter awarded scholarships to 12 high school seniors, presented its Pioneer Award to Neal Ouye, awarded grants to 3 organizations, and presented the chapter's first Youth Leadership award to Tara Umemoto, during its April 28th awards luncheon held at Richmond Country Club in Richmond.

The chapter awarded scholarships to the following high school seniors to recognize their academic achievements, community involvement, school activities, work history, JACL involvement, written essay, letter of recommendation, and group interview.

- *Derrick Chen (Albany HS) will attend UC Santa Cruz as an undeclared major*
- *Gemma Fa-Kaji (Berkeley HS), will attend USC as a History major.*
- *Jared Fukumae (Albany HS) will attend Cal Poly-SLO, majoring in Agricultural Science.*
- *Garrett Hill (Albany HS) will attend Cal Poly-Pomona and major in Agricultural Science. Garrett is also the recipient of the George/Yoshimi Nakamura Memorial Scholarship.*
- *Cole Huster (Berkeley HS) will attend Michigan University as an undeclared major. Cole is also the recipient of the Dan/Kathleen Date Memorial Scholarship.*
- *Grant Ikeda (Livermore HS) will attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and major in Aerospace Engineering. Grant is the recipient of the Terry Yamashita Memorial Scholarship.*
- *Shuji Kamita (Ygnacio Valley HS) will attend San Diego State University as an undeclared major. Shuji is the recipient of the Bea Kono Memorial Scholarship.*
- *Keiko Masanori (Northgate HS) will attend the University of Nevada at Reno as a Nursing major.*
- *Brennen Norman (El Cerrito HS) will attend UC Santa Cruz as an undeclared major.*
- *Victoria Sakai (San Leandro HS) will attend San Diego State University as a Business Marketing major. Victoria is the recipient of a scholarship sponsored by Chapter member Carolyn Adams.*
- *Amy Tsang (Albany HS) will attend Chabot College as an undeclared major.*
- *Luke Williams (Albany HS) will attend UC Santa Cruz and major in Environmental Science.*

The chapter recognized memorial scholarship donors: the Beatrice Kono family (George Kono), the Terry Yamashita family (Reiko Nabeta), the Dan/Kathleen Date family (Gail Yamamoto), and the George/Yoshimi Nakamura family (Ken, Mari, Cubby Nakamura)

Neal Ouye was presented with the chapter's Pioneer Award. This award honored Neal for his long time service to the Berkeley chapter (past president, board member, newsletter editor) as well as the award's purpose to recognize those with the vision, compassion, and energy to lay a foundation for building the strong Japanese American community we have today, as well as linking past leaders with our future leaders.

Grant awards were presented to: Nikkei Student Union (UC Berkeley) for assistance with attendance at the Manzanar Pilgrimage, the Oakland/Fukuoka Sister City Association to enable Oakland public school children to participate in the 2019 Summer Asia Pacific

Children's convention in Fukuoka, and the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Action Group to help defray costs for participants and providers to attend this educational conference to learn more of the dangers of alcoholism to the fetus during pregnancy.

Tara Umemoto was presented the chapter's initial Youth Leadership Award to recognize her leadership in organizing and implementing key youth activities.

The scholarship committee includes: Mark Fujikawa, Tiffany Ikeda, Vera Kawamura, Kana Kobayashi, Ryan Matsuda, Neal Ouye, Al Satake, Sharron Sue, and Ron Tanaka (Chair).



(from left to right) Seated: Derrick Chen, Amy Tsang, Jared Fukumae, Gemma Fa-Kaji, Keiko Masamori, Victoria Sakai, Delia Ikeda (for Grant Ikeda); Standing: Mari Nakamura, Cubby Nakamura, Reiko Nabeta, Tara Umemoto, Neal Ouye, Luke Williams Garrett Hill, Cole Huster, Brennen Norman, Shuji Kamita.



Previous Awardee Amelia Huster speaking about her College Experiences



Tak Shirasawa introducing Pioneer Neal Ouye

Berkeley JACL Youth Leadership Awardee- Tara Umemoto

This year, the Berkeley JACL Board of Directors established the Berkeley JACL Youth Leadership Award to nurture and recognize the next generation of leaders.

The Youth Leadership Award helps to fulfill the Berkeley JACL's commitment to growing and recognizing youth leaders with the desire, vision and skills to make a positive difference in areas consistent with Berkeley JACL's mission. We are so proud of our first recipient, Tara Umemoto.



Co-President Beth Uno presenting Award to Tara

Tara Umemoto has been involved with the Berkeley JACL chapter since 2015, serving as a board member in 2015 and 2017-2019. In 2015, Tara served as the Community Service and Issues Chair for Nikkei Student Union (NSU) where she coordinated community service and issues events such as Day of Remembrance in collaboration with Muslim Student Association. In 2014, Tara connected an El Dorado Union High School District board member to restorative justice resources, due to a racial discrimination and harassment incident that affected many Asian and Japanese Americans. In 2017, with support from the Berkeley JACL chapter and the Civil

Rights Committee, Tara coordinated a community conversation with panelists from different minority groups – Muslim, Jewish, LGBTQ, Immigration and youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Each speaker discussed the challenges they are facing as a minority group and how the Japanese American community can best support them and take action.

Tara has dedicated many hours to support youth in Oakland through volunteering in classrooms (2013-2016) and working with Oakland Unified School District in the Health and Wellness Unit (2015-2017). In 2015, Tara received her BA from University of California Berkeley where she majored in Social Welfare and minored in Education. Tara completed her Master's in Social Work at UC Berkeley in May 2019. Through this program, she interned in a Counseling Enriched – Special Day Class (2017-2018) and is currently interning with Sonoma County Family Youth and Children Services. Tara has spent the past five years supporting youth in foster care through interning at Sierra Forever Families, volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, being a camp counselor, running a professional clothing drive and pursuing a career in Child Welfare to ensure that families have the services they need to keep their children safe.

Berkeley JACL Awards Three Grants

By Vera Kawamura

The Berkeley JACL announced the three grant awardees at the Annual Scholarship Luncheon. First, a grant in the amount of \$1,000 was awarded to the UC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union (NSU) for its first pilgrimage to the Manzanar National Historic Site. Significantly, it is the 50th annual Pilgrimage to Manzanar. The Berkeley JACL grant enabled sixteen members of the NSU to participate in the pilgrimage. The NSU was unable to send a representative to the luncheon as the students were on the pilgrimage. Instead, a letter of appreciation was shared at the event. Second, a grant in the amount of \$1,500 was awarded to the Hawaii Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Action Group (FASD) to promote awareness of the range of permanent conditions that can occur when the developing fetus's brain is exposed to alcohol during pregnancy. The grant will enable individuals, who might otherwise be unable to participate, to attend the annual conference which brings together stakeholders including professionals from the medical community and parents. Ms. KG Ouye accepted the grant on behalf of the FASD and thanked the Berkeley JACL for its support. Third, a grant in the amount of \$1,500 was awarded to the Oakland Fukuoka Sister City

Association (OFSCA). The grant will enable public middle school students from Oakland to attend the annual Fukuoka Summer Asian Pacific Convention which seeks to promote world peace. Ms. Linda Nakamura, Director of the OFSCA, accepted the grant and thanked the Berkeley JACL for its support. The Grants Committee encourages applications which, for the next year, are due on March 1, 2020. Please see the Berkeley JACL website for further information and the application form.

NSU Pilgrimage to Manzanar

By Ken Whang



Nikkei Student Union (NSU) Berkeley attended the Pilgrimage to Manzanar for the first time in the chapter's history. The event itself struck members of our organization with a variety of emotions and provided an outlet to discuss Japanese American issues amongst other NSU organizations as well as a wide array of folks who were involved in the Japanese American community.

After debriefing as a group together, members of Berkeley NSU expressed some comments regarding expectations of the event itself. For one thing, several members were surprised that a religious ceremony took place and thought that the ceremony was beneficial to the event because it strengthened community bonds. In addition, members were surprised at the huge amount of diversity that was displayed at the event by attendees and organizers who were outside of the Japanese American ethnic group. The diversity brought a sense of solitude to the event showing that the injustices committed at Manzanar are not limited to the Japanese American community but also to other groups that have been oppressed and stripped of their civil rights and liberties.

As mentioned earlier in the reflection, our members who attended the Pilgrimage brought up the fact that they experienced a wide array of emotional

responses. For instance, some members of the group expressed frustration about the fact that while services were provided to research the family history of internment, some information could only be accessed through other government services that required payment. Another emotion that was conveyed by members was shock at the horrible experiences of incarcerated during the internment of Japanese Americans and how members hadn't fully comprehended the sheer amount of pain incarcerated went through.

In spite of the frustrations voiced by members, the event was one filled with positive and enjoyable experiences. Members were very happy to see the huge diversity of people at Manzanar at Dusk and being able to have younger generations interact with older generations. It was also an eye-opening experience for members to see that a lot of people are still passionate about the issues surrounding the incarceration of Japanese Americans. It gave members a sense of empowerment to be among the Japanese American community and with others who share the same values.

NSU Berkeley's participation at the Pilgrimage to Manzanar was a privilege and an eye-opening event to its members. The organization as a whole had a very positive experience and will strive to make sure that this event will be organized and funded for future generations of the Berkeley chapter. The organization would also like to give a huge thank you to JACL for sponsoring our trip as this voyage would not have been possible without the generous grant provided by JACL.

Berkeley JACL Scholarships Available for COPANI Convention

The Pan American Nikkei Association, otherwise known as PANA, will have their COPANI convention hosted by San Francisco this September from the 20th through the 22nd. The Berkeley JACL will be awarding scholarships to those interested in attending the convention but do not have the financial means to do so. Please email berkeleyjacl@gmail.com for more information. Youth (age 35 and younger) and Berkeley JACL members will be given priority.

This year's COPANI convention will be the 20th biennial convention since the inaugural convention organized by Mexican Nikkei and hosted by Mexico City in 1981. The COPANI convention's vision is to "Foster a socially, technologically, and commercially well-connected Pan American Nikkei community moving toward the future," per the organization's website. The convention will be a unique opportunity

for Japanese Americans of Japanese Latin American and Non-Japanese Latin American descent to connect with Nikkei outside of the U.S. to foster relationships and collaborate with the greater Japanese diasporic community.

Connecting Early-Mid Career Professionals

By Beth Uno

In 2019, our chapter has hosted two happy hour events in Berkeley with Nakayoshi, a community development organization for recent college graduates and adults based in San Francisco. The goal of our happy hours has been to connect early to mid-career professionals in our chapter with others in the greater San Francisco area. The chapter has also hoped to gain younger members through these events. Thank you to the Berkeley JACL Board of Directors for supporting the efforts of young people and generously sponsoring these events. As we acknowledge the importance of maintaining an active younger membership, we hope to host social or community events in partnership with Nakayoshi quarterly. If you are an early-mid career professional and would like to join us at our next event, please like the chapter on Facebook to stay in the loop about future events!



JACL Comments on Asian Pacific American Media Coalition Issues Report Cards to the TV Networks on their Inclusion of Asian Americans

JACL executive director, David Inoue emphasizes the importance of Asian Pacific American representation in the media. “As we continue to hear immigrants and religious minorities referred to as illegals or unpatriotic, it is important that our media provides realistic portrayals of minorities to reinforce the fact that minority stories are American stories. In the current 2018-2019 season, two shows center around Asian families as *Fresh Off the Boat* (ABC) celebrated its 100th episode and *I Feel Bad* (NBC) ran in the fall season. These shows demonstrate progress continues to be made, but there is much more that can be done to include APA actors in a wider variety of roles.”

College Corner

“College Corner” provides chapter scholarship recipients a channel to provide feedback on their college experiences. These articles come from two previous scholarship winners.

Martha Castro



A few weeks ago, I finished my sophomore year at Pomona College, which was surreal. I can't believe that I am already halfway through my undergraduate studies. In these past two years, I have declared my major, Molecular Biology, competed on multiple intercollegiate sports teams, and touched many lives through peer mentoring programs. Being part of the Cross Country and Track and Field teams has greatly impacted my time at Pomona. It has given me the opportunity to form close friendships with my teammates, who push me to be the best version of myself both inside and outside of practice. It has been really important for me to have a community of people who I can spend time with outside of an academic setting because they help me decompress after a full day of classes and lab. Another activity I enjoy is peer mentoring, when I meet with students to share my experiences and knowledge to help them with a specific class or problem. I mentor for both the Chemistry Department and the Quantitative Skills Center at Pomona, which gives me the opportunity to work in groups or one-on-one with students. I enjoy assisting other students and am grateful that Pomona has the resources to provide mentors for their students.

Balancing these activities with the classes I take can be tricky, but with careful time management, I am able to get everything done and still have time to grab a meal with friends. College is different from high school in that most classes only meet two or three times a week and labs can be over four hours long. This means that some of our learning needs to be done outside of class because the professors expect us to come to class having done the assigned reading so they

can dive deeper into topics. I was very grateful to receive the Dan and Kathleen Date Memorial Scholarship because it allowed me to purchase the textbooks I needed to succeed in my classes.

To be honest, I don't really remember a lot of my first few weeks of college. It was a blur of new faces, unfamiliar buildings, and lots and lots of readings. What I do remember about the beginning of my freshman year is that the friends I made and the activities I participate in now were not defined by my first few weeks. I thought that I had everything figured out, from the classes I would take to the kinds of people I would want to be surrounded by. My piece of advice for incoming college freshmen is to be open to change and to recognize that your expectations and plans for your life in college are not always going to manifest themselves in the way you think they will.



Alexander Tsuetaki



Being at Tufts University so far has been an amazing experience. I have made tons of new friends in my classes as well as the clubs I have joined. In fact, a couple of us in the Tae Kwon Do club recently participated in the old Tufts tradition of painting the cannon statue in the dead of night. The experiences of living on my own both in a dorm and now in an apartment have been just as fun and rewarding as I expected. Although I would have appreciated being in a dorm that wasn't being renovated, as it's quite the experience waking up to jackhammers every morning. However I can't really complain, especially since my roommate was quiet and the weather here has been much warmer than expected.

Majoring in computer science in the engineering school has meant that I have spent the first year slogging through many of the basic requirements for my degree. The computer science classes have been interesting and I really enjoy the professors. In fact, my

CS professor has joined me and my classmates in a Tuesday board game night. Being friends with other CS people has really helped me get through my work this year. They even helped me with my application for my internship as a research assistant at the Tufts Human Robotics Interactions lab. Now I am researching what humans believe robots can do and if they believe robots can transfer skills between tasks.

I would like to thank the Berkeley JACL for awarding me the 2018 Freshman Scholarship. It has been a great privilege to be here at Tufts and to have the support of the Berkeley JACL community.

Berkeley JACL at NCWNP District Fundraiser honoring Nancy Ukai



Nancy Ukai with her family



Berkeley JACL Attendees supporting Nancy Ukai

Origami Cranes to Texas in Protest

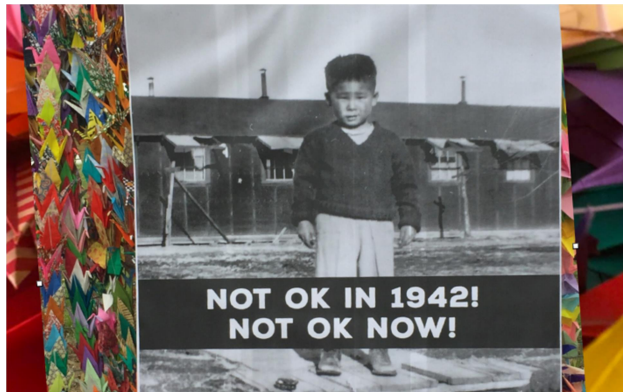
By Nancy Ukai

Armed with the chant, "Not okay in 1942, not okay now," a Japanese American pilgrimage group of 60, from CA, CO, NY, WA and TX, traveled to Texas in March to speak out against immigration detention. They visited the site of the WWII Crystal City internment camp southwest of San Antonio and protested the imprisonment of women and children at

the nearby South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, the largest immigrant detention center in the country today.

Nisei, sansei and yonsei from age 24 to 88 carried 25,000 hand-folded origami cranes to the Dilley prison fence in solidarity. The cranes were mailed from across the country, invited by the project @tsuru for solidarity. The Seattle, NY and other JACLs sent cranes as did East Bay members of the Berkeley JACL.

Seven pilgrims were imprisoned in Texas in their childhood, including two Japanese Peruvians who had been kidnapped from Peru when they were babies, to be used as hostages in a U.S. prisoner exchange with Japan.



JACL Presentation for UCOP

By Karen Kiyo Lowhurst

On May 28, 2019, Berkeley Chapter Board Member Nancy Ukai and member Karen Kiyo Lowhurst joined a distinguished panel of speakers at a lunchtime presentation of “*And Then They Came for Us*”, before the Office of the President of the University of California, also known as “UCOP”.

The film, by Abby Ginzburg, captures the incarceration and draws important parallels between Executive Order 9066 and the Islamophobia and xenophobia that exist in our country today. Ukai and Lowhurst were joined by Berkeley Chapter member Dr. Satsuki Ina, whose extensive, published research in inter-generational trauma informed both the panel discussion and the film itself. JACL San Jose Chapter Co-Presidents Sharon Uyeda and Tom Oshidari completed the panel, with each panelist adding a unique perspective on the impact of the incarceration on their own family and community.

UCOP General Counsel, Mark Morodomi, and Director of Executive Compensation and Program Strategy, Rebekah Fernandez, and their staff brought

the event together in honor of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. A delicious lunch was served, and the lively question and answer period following the film made for a memorable afternoon in which 50 UCOP employees showed interest and empathy on the topics of civil rights and an important chapter of Asian American history.

Tule Lake Resisters Apology - Resolution to be Proposed at Convention

A resolution to recognize the history of Tule Lake resisters who were stigmatized as “disloyals” during World War II will be submitted to the National Council for consideration at the national JACL convention in Salt Lake City (July 31-Aug. 4). “In the spirit of reconciliation and community unity, a sincere apology is offered to all those imprisoned in the Tule Lake Segregation Center for acts of resistance and dissent, who suffered shame and stigma during and after the war due to the JACL's attitudes and treatment of individuals unfairly labeled ‘disloyal,’” reads part of the proposed resolution. The resolution is co-sponsored by two districts: Northwest Pacific and the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific (Berkeley chapter in latter). *Please let us know if you have any views on the resolution or would like to see the full proposal.*

Co-Presidents	Tiffany Ikeda, Beth Ono
Secretary	Tara Umemoto
Treasurer	Tak Shirasawa
Directors:	
	Carolyn Adams, Jim Duff, Mark Fujikawa, Howard Fukuda, Cole Huster, Vera Kawamura, Kana Kobayashi, Ryan Matsuda, Kaz Mori, Neal Ouye, Al Satake, David Siap, Ron Tanaka, Nancy Ukai, Gordon Yamamoto, Dani Yang, Valerie Yasukochi



Newsletter

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Production and Circulation

Jim Duff, Valerie Yasukochi, Carolyn Adams

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 Berkeley Chapter
 Membership
 PO Box 7609
 Berkeley, CA 94707-0609

Berkeley JACL Membership Application

Names(s) – primary and spouse/partner _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone# and Email _____

<u>Membership Category</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Description</u>
Regular/Individual	\$70.	National dues \$65+\$5 Chapter dues
Couple/Family	\$115.	National dues \$110+\$5 Chapter dues
Student/Youth	\$35.	National dues \$30+\$5 Chapter dues
Thousand Club	\$100.	Annual contribution
Thousand Club Life	\$3,000.	One-time payment for lifetime membership
Century Club	\$175.	Annual contribution
Century Club Life	\$5,000.	One-time payment for lifetime membership
Millenium Club	\$1,000.	Annual contribution

Your tax-deductible check payable to Berkeley JACL can be sent to our PO Box 7609, Berkeley, CA 94707-0609 or JACL National Headquarters, P.O. Box 45397, San Francisco, CA 94145-0397.

Your membership includes a digital subscription to the Pacific Citizen (be sure to include your email address). If you prefer a hard copy, please check the box below and include your check for an **additional** \$17/year.

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For more information, contact JACL National Membership in San Francisco at 415-921-5225 x25.

Payment by credit card can be made at <https://jacl.org/member/>. Please specify you want to be a member of the Berkeley Chapter

**Japanese American Citizens League
Berkeley Chapter
P.O Box 7609
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Join Berkeley JACL at its Annual A's Baseball and Bento